Modernisation Fund Scheme which will be implemented by IFCI as the lead All India Financial Institution for Jute Industry. The Scheme has become operative with effect from 1st Nov. 1986 for a period of 2 years to be reviewed thereafter.

The assistance under the Jute Modernisation Fund would be available to all existing jute mills including weak but potentially viable jute units.

The most important feature of the scheme is that upto 80 per cent of the stipulated promoters contribution, Special loan at concessional rate of interest of 6 per cent will be available to weak but potentially viable units.

A Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Textiles has been set up to review the progress of implementation of the Scheme.

Meeting of standing committee on labour

132. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Standing Committee on Labour was held in New Delhi on September 23, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the subjects discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is attached.

Statement

Details if subject discussed in meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held on 22-23 September, 1986 at New Delhi and outcome thereof

Item—1

Amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act and the Trade Unions Act-restructuring of industrial relations and the dispute settlement system.

The Standing Labour Committee considered the various aspects of the proposed amendments of Industrial Disputes Act and the Trade Unions' Act. There was wide ranging exchange of views frim the members of the Committee, representing workers, employers, and the Government. It was recognised that the existing disputes settlement mechanisms and structures need substantial change. The need for having statutorily recognised bargaining agents at unit and industry levels was also recognised. It was felt that efforts should be made to ensure that existing multiplicity of unions is reduced and the trade unions become effective and strong in organisation. The need for taking measures to promote and encourage growth and internal leadership was also generally shared.

Government may keep in mind the various viewpoints expressed in the Committee while formulating its final proposals in this regard.

Item—2

Mobilisation of resources by the general public sector undertakings during the 7th Five Year Plan.

The Standing Labour Committee noted that a Tripartite Committee under the Chairmanship of the Labour Secretary had been set up for reviewing the progress made by the Central Public Sector undertakings in the mobilisation of resources needed for investment during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The position in this regard may be regularly reviewed by this Committee and the Standing Labour Committee kept advised of the position from time to time.

Item—3

Unorganised Labour-issues and challenges.

The Standing Labour Committee noted that 90 per cent of the Labour force in the country was in the unorganised sector, and that greater attention needs to be paid to the problems faced by such unorganised workers. The extent legislation needed to be properly implemented and

enforced by the State Government and the Central Government each in their respective spheres and no efforts should be spared in this direction. Social Security coverage and extension of Welfare measures to unorganised labour also need to be organised in a systematic manner.

The Labour Minister may consider setting up a sub-committee of the Standing Labour Committee to keep under constant review all measures for the benefit of unorganised labour.

Item—4

Safety and Health—factories's Act. 1948.

The Standing Labour Committee noted the legislative measures proposed to be undertaken for the promotion of safety and health in industrial establishments.

It welcomed the measures proposed in this regard.

Item—5

Raising of provident fund contribution.

The Standing Labour Committee unanimously recommended that the rate of contribution, both by employers and employees to the Employees Provident Fund may be raised to 10 per cent from the present rate of 8 per cent (applicable to 132 in industries|classes of establishments which employ 50 or more persons). In respect of other industries|classes of establishment or which employ less than 50 persons and which are covered under the E.P.F. and Miscellaneous provisions Act, 1952, the rate of contribution, by both employees and employers, may be raised to 8-1|2 per cent.

Measures also need to be taken to improve the working of the EPF Organisation, and the Standing Labour Committee suggested that the Ministry of Labour give attention to this aspect. It also recommended review, and some liberalisation, of the EPF's Family Pension Scheme.

Item—6

Workers' participation in management and the question of statutory provisions.

The Standing Labour Committee noted that the scheme for workers' participation in management had already come into existence.

There is already a Tripartite Committee which is reviewing the matter. That Committee may consider this subject. The private sector could also be represented in the Tripartite Committee.

Item—7

Exemption/relaxation of labour laws for small establishments.

The Standing Labour Committee was of the view that this item could be usefully considered by a sub-commitee of the Standing Labour Committee which should have on it representatives from both workers and employers who were from the smaller establishments proposed to be covered in the proposed exemptions|relaxations of labour laws for small establishments. This Committee could make its recommendations to the Government within a month.

Provident fund due from jute mills

133. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provident fund contribution arrears from the jute mills have accumulated to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, what are the names of each jute mill and the amount of arrears against such mills at the end of the year 1985-86; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government for the recovery of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.